John Carter Brown.

A NEW

Darien Artifice

LAID OPEN;

IN A

Notable Inſtance of Captain *Maclean*'s Name being uſed (in the *Flying Poſt*, *February* 11. and 13. 17^{01}_{02}.) to Vouch for the *Caledonian* Company, after that Gentleman hath been Perſecuted by them theſe Thirteen Months paſt for Vouching *Againſt* Them.

Authore Anti Darienſi.

Tali reflexione clarius refulgeo.

LONDON,

Printed for any Body, and Sold by the Bookſellers of *London* and *Weſtminſter*, 1701.

Price Three Pence.

 JOHN CARTER BROWN

DARIEN'S LAST SHIFT.

IT's both unlucky and troubleſom to an Author to look out for his Vouchers after he has deliver'd Paſſages to the World that are only Narrative; and it's more vexatious to be diſappointed of thoſe truſty ones he hath named and depended upon. This is *TIMONiculus* or *Harris* his preſent Caſe (tho' he is not much diſturb'd at it) who it ſeems hath ſaid more, from the 29 to 33 *page* of his *Enquiry into the* Caledonian *Project*, than the *Darien* Gentlemen care to hear, or their Agents will ſuffer to paſs for Sterling. Tho' ſuch a Diſappointment is enough to ſilence Dr. *Ferg——n* (modeſt Man) for a Twelve month, yet it's ſo far from damping *Harris*'s Spirits, that it ſerves to animate him with freſh ones to corroborate what he hath already advanc'd to the inrepealible Ignominy of thoſe projecting Conjurers, who thought to ſtifle his Credit by this Teaguiſh Artifice. I muſt own that it was the beſt of their play, ſince they could not attack that *Enquiry* on the Argument ſide, to find a flaw in the Narrative part, but what ſervice it will do them you'll ſee when it has paſt the teſt of what I have to offer in order to perſwade Captain *Maclean* that he did not ſet his hand to the *Flying Poſt*. It would have done *Tom Brown*'s Heart good to have fetch'd ſome turns in the *Court of Requeſts* on Tueſday, and ſeen Mr. *J——n*, the Man of deep penetration, and a certain Man (of the Family) ſhuffling through the Crowd, and communicating this Retro-

 evidence

evidence Paragraph to persons of all Ranks, who in good manners were oblig'd to take their words for its Confirmation; and afterwards in the Coffee-Houses betwixt *Charing-Cross* and that Chappel to hear how the *Darien* Agents defeated and crushed *Harris* his *Enquiry* to all intents and purposes in the very bud.

But as all the Golden Dreams and *Darien* Atchievments, wherewith the World has been hitherto feasted, have had the *Mal-heure* to evaporate (some into pure Air and the rest into sour Smoak) so this wonderful stratagem of three days date is in all appearance like to undergo the same fate. To dive into the bottom of this Last Shift is no great Witchcraft, but to show you who are the prime Ingineers I am not as yet able. Let it suffice to tell you here that *Darien* is the precious Cause, and to prop that up nothing must be left unpractic'd.

That I mayn't trouble you with too long a Preliminary, you are to understand that my true Name being *Harris* (well known to *Redpith*) I find my self indispensibly oblig'd to take those Arch-Gentlemen to task who had a hand in inserting that base and self-convicting Paragraph in last *Tuesday*'s *Flying Post*, sign'd *Lachlen Maclean*. I happen'd to meet with it about 9 the same morning, but could not believe that *Maclean* had any hand in it, nor indeed cannot as yet be fully perswaded of it, if the following Circumstances did not furnish me with some grounds. I had no sooner perused that Paragraph than I went in quest of him to the *Unicorn* Brandy-shop in *Charles-Court* in the *Strand*: where I understanding that he was in Bed, and some Company with him, wrote the following Note. —— *Capt.* Maclean, *I just now saw your Name at a Paragraph in the* Flying-Post, *wherein I believe you to have more Honour and Honesty than to have any hand. Mean while I desire you'll meet me either at Mr.* Crouche's *or on the* Exchange *by 12 or 2, that we may discourse the matter before those who know the truth of it; which if you don't, you must expect that I'll vindicate what I have wrote by such invincible Witnesses as will make*

you

you ashamed.—— This Note I neither seal'd nor folded up, but left it open with the Landlord. I went thence to *Westminster*, and in my return called for him again, and understood by his Landlord that he gave him my Note, and received for Answer, that he not being well was enclined to sleep, and could not be spoke with. I directed his Landlord to tell him when he awak'd to let me know by a Penny-post Letter when and where I might see him, but have not as yet heard any thing from him.

From thence I went to Friend *Redpith*, who writes the *Flying Post*, and ask'd him by whose Authority he inserted that Paragraph, to which he answered with pale and shaking Lips, that it was of a Gentleman who sign'd it, and would bear him harmless. I said no more to him besides telling him, That I should reason that and something else of another nature with him at the *Kings-Bench-Bar* e'er it were long.

I waited at Mr. *Crouche*'s till the Evening, and hearing nothing from him, I found my self obliged to take the speediest and fairest way to do my self right, which necessity directed me to do publickly; first by advertising the World in the News Papers of the falshood of that Paragraph in the *Flying Post*; next by taking out a Kings-Bench Writ for him and *Redpith*. And now by these Schedules (it being too tedious to wait the decision at Law) in order whereunto I'll inform you of what some of my Witnesses, who are readiest at hand, are ready to declare to any person who wants to be satisfied therein; besides what I have to show by missive Letters under his hand, which he sent me from *Newgate* to *Rochester*, begging me to assist him in his Distress, since the Company were his mortal Enemies on the account of his Justifying what I had wrote.

That I mayn't be thought to adduce contemptible Witnesses or Persons of mean Reputation, I shall make use of two of his best Friends, and one thats equally a Friend to him and me (and who is currently reported, by the set of Reformed Ped-

lars

lars at *Moncreifs*, to have 4000 *l.* of *Maclean*'s lodg'd in his hands) they being ſuch Perſons as the whole *Darien* College can neither reject, invalidate nor corrupt. The firſt is Mr. *Francis Mills* of the *Inner-Temple*, who was his Attorney when the Lord *B. H——n* cauſed Arreſt him at the Company's inſtance in an Action of 650 *l.* about a year ago. The ſecond is Mr. *Wilkinſon* of the *Inner-Temple* likewiſe, who was his Attorney when try'd at the *Old-Baily* laſt Summer for killing Major *Burnett*. The third is Mr. *Peter Crouche* Apothecary in *Loathbury*, who cannot be perſwaded that *Maclean* ſet his hand to that Paragraph, or that he will deny one Article of what's mention'd of him in the *Enquiry*, &c.

But before I proceed any further I'll cite the Paſſages therein relating to him, and then the Paragraph which is ſigned with his Name in the *Flying Poſt*.

It's known there has been abundance of pains taken to propagate the Notion of the Collonies being ſtarved by the Engliſh *Proclamations (the better to prepare the way for another,* That *Scotland* can never expect to proſper whilſt its under the ſame Head with *England) though all thoſe who come hither, whether from* Darien *or the* Engliſh *Plantations, declare the contrary, and averr, That had the Collony been provided with either Money, Bills or Merchantable Goods, it was impoſſible the* Engliſh *Proclamations could have hinder'd the* Weſt-Indians *from ſupplying them.*

One remarkable and convincing Inſtance of your Managers deſign to faſten the Darien *Miſcarriages,* fas aut nefas, *on the back of* Old England, *I'll give you in the following Narrative, which can be juſtified by invincible Circumſtances and Proofs;* —— *In* January *laſt when Captain* Maclean (*who commanded the Ship St.* Andrew *after* Pennicook's *and* Campbell's *death*) *with one Captain* Forbes, *Commandant of the four Companies who made the ſecond Expedition to* Darien, *as aforeſaid, arrived here from* Jamaica, *went forthwith to the two* Scots *Secretaries of State, to*

give

give them an account of their first and second Disasters; the first being occasioned by their want of Provisions and the Spanish Preparations against them, and the other by Skipper Jamison's *Vessel being burnt (by some Brandy's taking fire, as the Skipper said) wherein was their six months Store for the 300 Men they carried over. Both the Secretaries ask'd these Gentlemen if they thought the English Proclamations were the occasion of their wanting Provisions, to which they answered* Negative. *My Lord* Seafield *told them that one* Harris *(who had been with them in their first Expedition to* Darien*) had written a Book against the Company's Management, and the* Darien *Project, which he recommended to them to peruse, and give their Opinion of it. To which they answered, That they had met with it on the Road from* Deal, *and had read it.* Forbes, *not being in the first Expedition, was not so qualified to judge of it as the other, but by the Journals he had seen of some Captains of that Expeditions hand-writing (who were dead) he believed the* Darien *Narrative to be true.* Maclean *answered,* That as for the Companies Management in *Holland* and *Hamburgh*, it was before the time of his engaging in their Service, but as to the *Darien* part of it, he would take the Sacrament on the truth of it. *Whilst these Gentlemen were at my Lord* Carmichal's *Lodging, some of the Companies Agents having notice, came thither, and would not part with them till they should see a certain Man of Quality newly arrived at* London *with the* Scots *Address (as it was term'd) to his Majesty. These Gentlemen accordingly waited on him, and having given him the same account, they were told,* That they must alter their Story, else it would confirm what *Harris* had said, and break all the Measures they had taken to fasten the Collonies Miscarriage upon the English Proclamations; and this they must do for the Honour of the ancient Kingdom. *They replied,* That should they tell it otherwise, the contrary would be made appear by every one who came from *Jamaica*, whether *English* or *Scots. Pains was taken on them to go immediately to* Scotland, *for should it be known they were in* London,

they would be called before the Englisſh Secretaries of State and examined. They anſwered, That they could not go till the Ship, wherein their Baggage was, came round from the *Downes. Then they were deſired* to keep cloſe, and if the Engliſh Secretaries ſent for them, to avoid it. *During three or four days ſtay this Man of Quality either plied* Maclean *by himſelf or others to alter his Story,* (*as for* Forbes *he was not ſo material a Man for their purpoſe, by reaſon he was not in the firſt Expedition, and only ſtaid about three Weeks with his Men at* Darien) *but to no purpoſe, and at laſt being importuned by ſeveral Meſſages, ſent him word in ſhort and Highland terms, that he would not be ſeduced to tell ſuch an untruth for the beſt Lord in Chriſtendom: and ſo beg'd, that he would not importune him any more on that Head.*

In the mean time one Lieutenant Stuart *and another* Straitton, *who came over in the ſame Ship, arrived in Town. Theſe the Companies Agents faſtned, coop'd them up cloſe, and would not ſuffer them to ſee any Body* (*nay, not* Maclean *nor* Forbes) *till having taught them their Leſſon, they ſent them fairly out of Town for* Edinburgh, *to counterballance the other two; tho' their Evidence does not ſignifie a Button to the matter in hand, by reaſon theſe were of the ſecond Expedition, and were not capable of vouching whether the* Engliſh *Proclamations ſtarv'd the Colony or no.—— But if they could be of uſe to ſerve the Companies Intereſt, why did not the Man of Quality introduce them, or cauſe them to be introduced to his Majeſty, to juſtifie what the Company advanced, which beſides a ſhow of Candour and Fairneſs, would have been very important at that Inſtant. But theſe raw Youths, being but indifferently grounded in their Principles, it was rather thought convenient to ſend them to the Companies College, where they would be better inſtructed and improved in their Knowledge.*

As for Maclean, *ſince he could not be wrought upon fairly, there was another Method taken. The Man of Quality diſſembl'd his indignation for a day or two, till he perſwaded* Maclean *to*

ſhow

ſhow him his Accompts of Diſburſements at Jamaica, *towards Victualling the St.* Andrew's *Men*, &c. Maclean *not ſuſpecting any thing, innocently gave him the Accompt, where on one ſide he charg'd himſelf with* 650 *l. of the Companies Money, which he had received from Mr.* Jenkins *the Naval Officer in* Jamaica, *and on the contrary page ſhow'd how he had diſburs'd it, with Vouchers, and per Ballance, brought the Company in Debtor.*

Maclean *was deſired to ſign his Accompt, which he did with as much ſimplicity as he ſhow'd it, being told that care ſhould be taken to tranſmit it to the Company.*—— *Next day he was Arreſted at the Company's inſtance in an Action of* 650 *l. The deſign of this Project was twofold; firſt, his being in a ſtrange Country and without Money, it was thought he could not find Bail, and rather than go to Priſon he might be brought to terms. The ſecond was abſolutely neceſſary if the firſt fail'd, for by the News being ſpread over* Scotland *that he was Arreſted and in Priſon in* London *for a great Sum (whereof he had cheated the Company) his Reputation would be thereby ruin'd, and conſequently no Credit given to any thing he ſhould ſay. Nay, this Stratagem ſucceeded ſo well, that you know it to be ſtill currently believed in* Scotland *that he has* 4000 *l. of the Company's Money, though, if the truth were known, the poor Gentleman cannot command* 5 *l. in the World, but is oblig'd to ſome old Friends here for his Subſiſtance. As for the* 650 *l. Action, after the Companies Agents had made him ſpend ſome Money in* Chancery-Lane *to find out his Proſecutor, and Cauſe of Action, he was at laſt diſcharged by the Lord Chief Juſtice* Holt, *no Perſon appearing with any reaſonable Plea againſt him.*——

So much then for the *Enquiry*: Next comes the *Flying Poſt* Paragraph,—— *Whereas in a Libel intituled,* An Enquiry into the *Caledonian* Project, *mention is made of Captain* Maclean, *as vouching a part of* Harris *his Book, intituled,* A Defence of the *Scots* abdicating *Darien*; *and likewiſe of a Converſation betwixt the ſaid Captain and a certain Nobleman then newly come from*

from Scotland *with an Addreſs; and of endeavours uſed by the ſaid Nobleman to oblige the ſaid Captain to change his Stories, this is to ſatisfie the World that the whole Relation is Falſe, Malicious and Scandalous.*

Lauchlin Maclean.

This Advertiſement being as ſubſtantial and pithy as could be expected on ſuch an Occaſion, I ſhall apply ſuch Topicks to diſcuſs it, as to reſtore the *Enquiry* to the ſame ſtate wherein he found it, and leave the *Darien* Agents to find out ſome new flaw in it; adviſing them at the ſame time to bring better Authority for what they ſay than they have done now, and not ſo unadviſedly to ſtir in a thing which muſt needs perfume their Noſtrils.

Maclean's Advertiſement conſiſting of two Parts, to wit, his denying that he vouch'd the *Darien* part of *Harris* his Book, and that he was temper'd with by a certain Man of Quality to change his Stories; I ſhall here put him in mind of both, and afterwards faſten the whole upon him in Court, providing he ſtays ſo long as to ſtand Tryal. I proteſt that I do it very unwillingly, but my Reputation lying at ſtake, by what is advanced in his Name, makes it abſolutely neceſſary. I ſhall not ask Captain *Maclean* what moved him to deny a Fact now which he was willing ſhould be publiſh'd half a Year ago, he knowing his own Affairs beſt.—— He is only deſired to remember the following Paſſages,——

Firſt, That on the firſt day of *January* was Twelvemonth in *Cobham*'s Coffee-Houſe at *Rocheſter* (in his Paſſage from *Deal* to *London*) *Harris* his foreſaid Book was ſhewed to him and *Forbes*, where he vouched the *Darien* part of it to be FACT, and as for the other he could not judge of it, by reaſon it was before he was engaged in the Companies Service.

Second-

Secondly, That on the ſecond of *January* at Night he arrived at *London*, and being in Company with Mr. *Croucke*, he averr'd the ſame anew. Whereupon *Harris* telling him that he had a good Opportunity of ſerving his Country, he ought to apply himſelf to ſome Miniſter of State, and declare the Truth; and withal, to tell no Lye either for or againſt *Harris*.

Thirdly, That the Morning following *Maclean* and *Forbes* deſigning to apply themſelves to one of the *Engliſh* Secretaries of State, he declin'd it, and ſent them word that it was not ſo properly his Buſineſs, as the *Scots* Secretaries.

Fourthly, That *Maclean* and *Forbes* went forthwith, firſt to my Lord *Seafield*, and afterwards to my Lord *Carmichal*, and did not return to their firſt Lodging in four or five days; and the next time they ſaw Mr. *Crouch* told him the Paſſages betwixt the Secretaries and him, as likewiſe of the Endeavours the other Man of Quality uſed to perſwade him to tell his ſtory the Companies way; and that after abundance of importunity he was obliged to ſend him the foreſaid rough Anſwer.

Fifthly, That being Arreſted in an Action of 650 *l.* at the Companies inſtance, he employ'd Mr. *Mills* as his Attorney, and not only told him how he was decoy'd by the Man of Quality, firſt to give up his *Jamaica* Accompts under a Notion of tranſmitting them to the Company, and afterwards to ſign the ſame; but alſo the other Reaſons (as aforeſaid) of that unjuſt Uſage.

Sixthly, He may remember that the firſt time he and his Attorney appear'd before the Judge in order to plead that he might not be obliged to give in ſpecial Bail, he ſhewed how unjuſtly he was Arreſted, upon which the Judge bid the oppoſite Attorney either tell the Man of Quality to appear, or give ſome juſt Cauſe why *Maclean* ſhould not be admitted to common Bail.

Seventhly, After ſeveral Days and Weeks attendance in *Chancery-Lane*, neither the Man of Quality nor any juſt cauſe of Action appearing, and *Maclean* pleading that the Arreſt was only a malicious Stratagem of the Company to ruine his Reputation (becauſe he could not be ſeduc'd to tell Lyes for them, and ſay that the Engliſh Proclamations were the occaſion of the Collonies miſcarriage) the Lord Chief Juſtice *Holt* diſcharg'd him and his Bail.

Eighthly, He no ſooner being clear of this then he was threatned to be taken up anew, removed his Lodgings and abſconded at *Charles Story*'s in *Lambeth*, and at the ſame time wrote to *Harris*, that the Company being reſolv'd never to leave him till they ruin'd him, he would come and paſs ſome time with him at *Rocheſter* till he had order'd his Affairs ſo as to go over to *Holland* to ſeek for Service.

Ninthly, That the very next day he happened to kill Major *Burnet*, and at his Tryal he pleaded that it was ſo little premeditated, that to avoid the *Scots* Company, who perſecuted him, he was the ſame day going to *Rocheſter*; which Letter *Harris* vouch'd in Court, and did him conſiderable ſervice.— This is known to Mr. *Wilkinſon*.

If Captain *Maclean* is reſolved to forget any part of the Premiſſes, its referr'd to Mr. *Mills* his Friend and Attorney, as likewiſe to the Attorney on the Companies ſide, if he pleaſes to declare Fact.

Tenthly, He may particularly remember that one Evening laſt Summer at the *Ship* Tavern in the *Strand*, in Company of the ſaid *Mills*, *Crouch*, and one *George Grier* a *Scots*-man, living at the Golden-Ball in *York-Buildings*, where complaining of the unjuſt Uſage of the Company, amongſt other things he vouch'd that what *Harris* had wrote about *Darien* was literally true.—— The ſame he has ſaid an hundred times, and in an hundred Companies.

Eleventhly,

Eleventhly, He may remember that during his Law-ſuit with the Company he both ſpoke and wrote to Mr. *Crouch*, that he wanted to be introduc'd to ſome of the *Engliſh* Miniſters of State, ſince he deſpaired of my Lord *Seafield* and *A —— le*'s doing any thing for him, and that Mr. *Crouch*'s Anſwer was, That he had not Intereſt enough to do it.

Twelfthly, When he was in *Newgate* he ſent for Mr. *Crouch*, and having told him that he was a Lump of Misfortunes, intreated him to write to *Harris* to come to Town and aſſiſt him in his Diſtreſs, ſince it was on the account of vouching what he had ſaid, that the Company would leave no ſtone unturn'd to take away his Life.

Thirteenthly, That at the ſame time he wrote to *Harris* on the ſame ſtrain, and that *Harris* came ſeveral times to Town on his Account ſolely, and did him conſiderable ſervices.

This I think is ſufficient at preſent to ſatisfie the World of the Falſeneſs and Ingratitude of that Paragraph in the *Flying Poſt*.— I refer the reſt to the Tryal at the *Kings-Bench-Bar*, the reſult of which the World ſhall know.

I know that the *Darien* Agents are tickled that *Maclean* and *Harris* are ſet by the Ears at any Rate, and if they ſhould cut one anothers Throat it's equal to them whoſe it is. I don't deſign to give them an opportunity to laugh at us, ſince there's no occaſion for Swords to decide a Controverſie, where ſo many good Atteſtations will give it on my ſide. I'll only tell the *Darien* Gentlemen that for their ſakes I'll maſter my Temper at preſent, they being already ſatisfied that I have drawn my Sword oftner than Prudence ſhould have directed me. And if they contrive any new Murdering or Kidnabbing Trap for me, it's an hundred to one (if they don't do it very cunningly) but I ſhall find a Counter-charm for ſome of them.

POST-

POSTSCRIPT.

Febr. 13. 17$\frac{0}{0}$.

INstead of Captain *Maclean*'s giving me a Meeting, he hath sent a Letter to Mr. *Crouch*, dated *February* 12. wherein he *admires that* Harris *should have made use of his Name without his consent, with a Menace, if ever he sees his Name in Print afterwards at any rate.*—— Your Servant Captain, this is but a slender evasion. If you had worded your *Flying Post* Paragraph so, you had saved your self some trouble and more Credit. Since your hand was in, you should have wrote to Mr. *Crouch*, that *Harris* had made use of your name to a Falshood without your Consent. I would have you remember, that you have the same end of a *Controversie* now (in Parallels) as Major *Burnet* threw away his Life upon.—— Tho' I do assure you that I bear you no Malice, nor do I intend to debate it after that manner.

I have just now received a Letter from Mr. *Wilkinson*, shewing, that *Maclean* has sent to him to appear as his Attorney; on which score I cannot expect that he will be forward in vouching any thing to his Client's disadvantage.—— However, as he is a Gentleman, I hope he'll do me Justice, since he himself form'd the Defence for *Maclean's* Tryal at the *Old-Baily*, and knows the *Ninth Article* to be part of it.

Captain Maclean *is likewise desired to remember, That the better to confirm the* Darien *Book, he dispers'd several Copies of a dead Captain's Journal, and sent one of these* per *Mr.* Crouch *to a certain Publick Minister of* England.

Redpith *is desired not to forget to acquaint the World in his* Flying Post, *what Advantages the* Darien *Projectors are like to receive by this last Stratagem.*

FINIS.

D
Scott
137